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SPECIFICATION

1. Title of the Invention

Etching Solution for Lead-based Passivation Glass

2. Claims

An etching solution for lead-based passivation glass, characterized by being a system comprising HF-HCl-acetic acid-water, containing no more than 5 wt% HF, at least 1 wt% HCl, and at least 2 wt% acetic acid.

3. Detailed Description of the Invention

Technological Field to Which the Invention Belongs

The present invention relates to an etching solution for lead-based passivation glass.

Prior Art and Related Problems

Passivation using glass has been widely employed in the past as a means for covering the pn junction plane in semiconductors. This passivation is effective at increasing reliability and improving performance in semiconductor devices, such as raising their voltage resistance.

Glass materials used for the passivation of semiconductors come in two types: so-called zinc-based glass whose main component is ZnO-B₂O₃-SiO₂, and so-called zinc-based glass whose main component is PbO-SiO₂. Of these, lead-based glass has the advantage of being very resistant to chemicals, and is practically impermeable by anything but a hydrofluoric acid-based etching solution. This same property, however, becomes a drawback in such situations as the removal of glass adhering where it is not wanted, or the patterning of glass. The reason for this is that nearly all devices such as thyristors and transistors also feature insulating films of silicon oxide, and this SiO₂ layer also ends up being etched in the etching of the glass. If there were some means for selectively etching just lead glass, it would offer numerous advantages, such as a shorter manufacturing time and broader application.

Object of the Invention

It is an object of the present invention to provide an etching solution composition which favorably etches lead-based passivation glass, but etches silicon oxide almost not at all.

Summary of the Invention

The etching solution pertaining to the present invention is a system comprising HF-HCl-acetic acid-water, containing no more than 5 wt% HF, at least 2 wt% HCl, and at least 2 wt% acetic acid.

The most important point in determining the ideal etching solution composition is the ratio of the glass etching rate to the silicon oxide etching rate. The SiO_2 films used in actual devices are only 12 microns thick at most. The glass used in passivation films, however, is usually at least $10 \,\mu m$ thick. Even if the glass is etched, the objective will not be met if less than half of the SiO_2 film remains behind, so the glass etching rate must be at least ten times higher. In addition, no residue or the like must remain on the etched surface, and the absolute value of the etching rate must be as large as possible. The compositional ranges given above were decided upon as a result of investigating the optimal solution composition with these requirements in mind.

Examples of the Invention

The present invention will now be described in detail by giving examples.

A composition comprising 47 wt% SiO_2 , 2.5 wt% Al_2O_3 , 8.5 wt% B_2O_3 , and 42 wt% PbO was chosen as an example of the lead-based glass composition. The surface of this glass was polished, after which part of the surface was covered and protected with wax or the like, and then etched. The step formed between the protected surface and the etched surface was detected by interference microscope or the like, and the etching rate was calculated. Examples of the SiO_2 film include a chemical vapor deposition film containing 1×10^{21} /cm³ phosphorus (PSG film), a chemical vapor deposition film containing no phosphorus (SiO₂) film, and quartz glass. The etching rate was determined

in the same way as for the glass. Reagent-grade hydrofluoric acid (49% HF), hydrochloric acid (35% HCl), and glacial acetic acid were used as the starting raw materials for the etching solution, and if needed, a suitable amount of pure water was added in the preparation of the etching solution. The solution temperature is usually room temperature.

Fig. 1 is a graph of the relationship between HF concentration and glass etching rate at different hydrochloric acid concentrations (1 wt% (A), 10 wt% (B), and 30 wt% (C)). When the hydrochloric acid concentration was less than 1 wt%, residue remained on the glass surface and the etching rate could not be accurately determined. This means that this composition was unsuitable as an etching solution. As shown in Fig. 1, the etching rate rose linearly along with HF concentration. The etching rate also rose slightly along with HCl concentration. It can be seen, though, that replacing all of the acetic acid with hydrochloric acid is undesirable because insoluble residue is produced. The acetic acid concentration is preferably at least 2 wt%.

Meanwhile, the rate at which SiO₂ is etched will vary with the film quality and other factors, but the etching rate varies in the order of PSG > SiO₂ film > quartz glass. In most cases, the etching rate of quartz glass is one order of magnitude lower than that of a PSG film, so the objective will not be achieved merely by focusing on the etching rate ratio between PSG and lead glass. This etching rate ratio was found to vary greatly with the concentration of HF. Fig. 2 is a graph of this etching rate ratio versus HF concentration. It can be seen that when the concentration of HF is over 5%, the etching rate ratio drops below 10 and the objective is not achieved. There is little change in this ratio when the HCl concentration is varied (1 wt% (A), 10 wt% (B), and 30 wt% (C)).

The above results indicate that the concentration of HF must be lowered in order to increase the etching differential between lead glass and PSG. Nevertheless, as seen in Fig. 1, this results in a decrease in the lead glass etching rate itself. If the solution temperature is raised, though, it is possible to raise the etching rate by at least one order of magnitude. Fig. 3 is a graph of the etching rate for lead glass (G) and PSG (P) versus solution temperature for a solution composition comprising 1 wt% HF, 5 wt% HCl, 15 wt% H₂O, and the balance acetic acid. The etching rate itself can be raised by at least one order of magnitude, without greatly affecting the etching rate ratio, by raising the solution temperature.

The experiment examples so far have involved the above-mentioned combination of concentration hydrochloric acid and glacial acetic acid. Therefore, the amount of water introduced was a constant amount determined by the combination. In view of this, in order to examine the effect of water concentration, the HF and HCl concentrations were kept constant at 1 wt% (approximately 2 wt% concentrated hydrofluoric acid) and 1.75 wt% (approximately 5 wt% concentrated hydrochloric acid), respectively, the balance of glacial acetic acid was suitably replaced with water, and the etching rate was then examined, the results of which are given in Fig. 4. It can be seen that an increase in water content produced substantially no change in the etching rate.

The same experiment as illustrated in Fig. 1 was again conducted, using glass of 40 wt% SiO₂, 10 wt% Al₂O₃, and 50 wt% PbO, as another example of the composition of the lead-based passivation glass, whereupon it was found that the etching rate increased approximately 20% at a given HF concentration.

Effect of the Invention

As discussed above, with the etching solution pertaining to the present invention, it is possible to etch lead-based passivation glass at a rate at least one order of magnitude higher than with PSG or another such SiO₂ film, which makes it easier to remove passivation glass that has adhered in unwanted places, and this improves device performance, shortens the manufacturing process, and allows the glass passivation method to be applied more broadly.

4. Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is a graph in which the etching rate of lead-based passivation glass is plotted against the hydrofluoric acid concentration in the solution;

Fig. 2 is a graph of the relationship between the hydrofluoric acid concentration and the etching rate ratio of lead-based glass and a PSG film;

Fig. 3 is a graph of the relationship between the solution temperature and the etching rate of lead-based glass and PSG; and

Fig. 4 is a graph of the change in the lead-based glass and PSG etching rates at different ratios of acetic acid and water in the etching solution.

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Etching rate (μ/\min)

Fig. 1 Fig. 2

Etching rate (μ /min) Etching ratio (glass/PSG)

Fig. 3 Fig. 4

Etching rate (μ/\min)

Temperature (°C) →

Acetic acid (%)

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審査請求 未請求 発明の数 1 (全3頁)

図発明の名称

鉛系パツシベーションガラスのエツチング液

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1 発明の名称

鉛来パッシペーションガラスのエッチング液

2 特許請求の範囲

HF-HCL-酢酸-水系であって、 5wt%以下の HF と 1wt%以上のHCLと、 2wt%以上の酢酸を含んでいる ことを特徴とする鉛系パッシベーションガラスの エッチング液。

- 3. 発明の詳細な説明
- (発明の出する技術分野)

本発明は鉛系パッシベーションガラスのエッチ ング液の組成に関する。

(従来技術とその問題点)

従来、半導体のPn接合面を被覆保持する手法 として、ガラスを用いたパッシペーションが広く 行なわれている。とのパッシペーションは耐圧上 昇等の半導体素子の性能向上及び信頼性向上に効 **垛がある。**

半導体パッシペーション用のガラス材料には、 ZnO-B₂O₃-SiO₂ を主成分とした所開亜鉛系ガラス

と、 PbO-SiO。を主成分とした所関亜鉛系ガラス の2種が使われている。これらのうち鉛系ガラス は耐薬品性が高いという長所を持っており、弗殻 系エッチング放以外には単郷上優されない。しか しながら一方、との引は余分に付着したガラスの 除去やガラスのパターンニングたどの場合には短 所にもなる。何故なら、サイリスタやトランジス タなど、ほとんどの索子は酸化硅器の絶縁膜も使 用されており、ガラスのエッチングの際にはこの SiOa層も侵食されてしまりためである。鉛ガラス だけを選択的にエッチングできる手段があれば、 工程短縮や用途の拡大など利点が多い。

(発明の目的)

本発明の目的は鉛系パッシベーションガラスを よくエッチングし、酸化造業を終とんどエッチン グしないエッチング液の組成を提供する你である。 [発明の模型]

本発明にかかるエッチング液はHF-HCL- 酢酸-水系であって、 5wts以下の HFと、 2wts以上の HCL と、 2wt%以上の酢酸を含むものである。

[発明の実施例]

ましくない亦がわかった。好ましい酢酸濃度は 2wtf以上であった。

一方、SiO。に対するエッチング速度は膜質など によって異なり、エッチング速度は、 PSG>SiO2 膜>石英ガラスの関に大きくなる。ほとんどの場 合、石英ガラスは PSC 膜の一桁程度エッチング速 度が小さくなるから、 PSG と鉛ガラスとのエッチ ンク速度比を問題にするだけで目的は達せられる。 さてこのエッチング速度比は、HFの 微度 によって大きく 変る事がわかった。第2回はこのエッチング速度 比をHF隣腹に対してブロットしたものである。 HFの凝版が5まを越えるとエッチング速度比が 10より小さくなり、目的に合わなくなる事がわか る。また HCL の顔度が変って (1wt%…A,10wt%…B, 30w15…Cも、との比に大きな変化はない。さて以 上の結果から、鉛ガラスと PSG とのエッチング差 を大きくするにはHFの旋旋を小さくする必要が ある都がわかる。しかしながら第1図でわかるよ うに、 その結果鉛ガラスのエッチング速度そのも のも小さくなる。しかし液温を上昇させればエッ

事により、エッチンク測度を求めた。また SiO2版 の例としては 1×10²¹個/cd リンを含む化学蒸箔膜 (PSG膜),リンを含まない化学蒸箔膜 (SiO2版)、石英ガラスなどを用いた。エッチング 凍度 ガラス の場合と同様の方法で求めた。エッチング 液の 出発原料としては試薬級のフッ酸 (49至1下)、塩酸 (35至HCL)及び氷酢酸を用い、必要ならば純水を適具循加してエッチング液を調整した。液温は通常窒温である。

第1図は液中のHF磁度と鉛ガラスのエッチング 速度の関係を異なる塩酸設度(1wtが、A,10wtが、B, 30wtが、C)の場合について図示したものである。 塩酸(HCL)酸度が1wtがに満たない場合はガラス 幾面に残強が吸り、正確なエッチング液度が決め られなかった。即ちこの組成域はエッチング液と しては不適当であった。例に示したよりに、HF 健度が増すとエッチング速度がわずか またHCLの機度が増すとエッチング速度がわずか ながら増す。しかしながら酢酸のすべてを塩酸で むき替えた場合にはやはり不配性の残 進を生じ好

テンク速度を一桁以上上昇させる事が可能である。 第3図はHF 1wtx,HCL5wtx,H2O15wtx,機りが酢酸 の被組成について、鉛ガラス(M及び PSG (P)のエッチンク速度を被温に対して示してある。液温を上昇させる事により、エッチング速度比をあまり変化させずに速度そのものを一桁以上上昇させる事ができる。

これまでの実験例は前記の設塩限及び氷酢酸の 組み合せであった。従がって導入される水分は組 み合せで決まる一定値をとる。そこで水分設度の 影響を調べるため、HF 1wts(設準破約2wts)、HCC 1.75wts(設塩酸約5wts)と一定にしておき、残分の氷 酢酸を商食水で慢き替えてエッチング速度を調べ た結果を選4図に示した。水分散が増してもエッ チング速度は殆んど変らない事がわかる。

(発明の効果)

以上述べた如く、本発明にかかるエッチング液によれば、鉛系パッシペーションガラスが PSG などの SiO2 膜より一桁以上の選底でエッチングする 你が可能であるため、不必要な部分に付給したパッシペーションガラスの除去などが側便になり、 米子の高性能化、工程 短縮或いはガラスパッシペーション法の応用の拡大などが適成できる。

4. 図面の簡単な説明

第1図は鉛系パッシベーションガラスのエッチング速度を被中のフッ酸濃度に対してブロットした図、第2図は鉛系ガラスと PSCJ 順のエッチング速度比とフッ酸濃度との関係を示す図、第3図は鉛系ガラス及び PSCJ のエッチング減収と被温との関係を示す図、第4図はエッチング減中の酢酸と水との比が異る場合の鉛系ガラス及び PSCJ のエッチング速度の変化を示す図である。

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